

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF—

FIVE MILE BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION

Of the Primitive Faith and Order,

HELD WITH

LITTLE VINE CHURCH, WALKER CO., ALA.,

September 14, 15, and 16, 1883.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.:
ROBERTS & SON, STEAM PRINTERS AND BINDERS,
1888.



MINUTES.

The FIVE MILE CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of the Primitive Faith and Order, held her Sixteenth Annual Session with Little Vine Church, Walker county, Ala., on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of September, 1883.

1. The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder J. T. Stuart, from I Timothy, IV Chapter and 16th verse; and after a short recess the Association met in a house prepared, and organized by singing, and prayer by Elder H. Barton. Preaching at the meeting house by Elders I. N. Moon and J. J. Hamilton.

2. Called for and read letters from the different churches and enrolled the names of the messengers as follows; From Ebenezer Church Elders N. Sanders, D. Jenkins and Bro. M. L. Vandever; from Sardis church, Elders J. M. Barton, H. Barton and W. J. McComak; from Little Vine church, Elders J. W. Philips, M. C. Cross and Bro. Wm. York; from Liberty church, brethren J. M. Bulard, M. M. Creel and A. F. Thomas; from Providence church, brethren W. J. Cates and J. H. Blackmon; from Macedonia church, Bro. L. Robbins; from Cluster Springs church, brethren W. M. Cornelius, Thomas White and James Davis.

3. Elected H. Barton Moderator and D. Jenkins, Clerk.

4. The Moderator took his seat and announced the Association organized and ready for business.

5. Adopted the last years' minutes as the order of business.

6. Invited visiting ministers of our Faith and Order to seats with us.

7. Opened the door of the Association for the reception of petitionary churches and received a letter from Mount

Zion church, Jefferson county, by her messengers, Elder J. T. Stuart and brethren P. J. Powel and R. Thomas; also a letter from Sardis church, Jefferson county, by her messengers brethren J. B. Gore and J. E. Farris, each of which was cordially received into our body, by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

8. Appointed committees as follows; On Business to come before the body, Elders N. Sanders, W. J. McComak, J. M. Barton, together with the Moderator and Clerk. On Finance, brethren J. H. Blackmon and J. M. Bulard. On Preaching, brethren M. L. Vandever, M. M. Creel, W. J. Cates, L. Robbins, Wm. Cornelius, P. J. Powel and J. E. Farris.

9. Called for Correspondence from Sister Associations, and received a letter and minutes from Lost Creek by the hand of her messengers Elder J. J. Hamilton and brethren I. Gurtry and A. A. Williams; from Little Hope, a letter and minutes but no messenger; from Butahatchee, letter and minutes by her messenger Elder W. W. Barton; from Mt. Zion, letter and minutes by her messengers Elder R. T. Presley and Bro. James Alfred, all of whom were cordially received by the Moderator's extending the right hand of fellowship.

10. Appointed Bro. J. H. Blackmon to write a Corresponding Letter, and adjourned until Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING; 9 o'clock.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Elder J. J. Hamilton, preaching at the stand by Elders W. W. Barton and J. M. McComak, and in the evening by Elders J. M. Barton and R. T. Presley.

1. Called for the report of Committee on Business to come before the body which was received and committee discharged.

2. Called for the reading of the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Abstract of Faith.

3. Renewed invitations to visiting ministers.

4. Renewed invitation for correspondence.

5. Renewed call for petitionary churches, and received a letter from Emmens church, Calhoun county, Ala., by the hand of her messenger J. O. McColor, which was received, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. Called for the reading of the Corresponding Letter which was read and received and ordered printed in this minute.

7. Appointed correspondence as follows: To Wetumpka Association, Elders J. T. Stuart and N. Sanders; to Butahatchee, Elders J. W. Philips and H. Barton; to Mt. Zion, Elders J. W. Philips and H. Barton; to Little Hope, Elders J. T. Stuart, M. C. Cross and Bro. M. M. Creel; to Lost Creek, Elders J. W. Philips, J. M. Barton, J. T. Stuart, H. Barton, N. Sanders, M. C. Cross and D. Jenkins.

9. Appointed District Meetings as follows; 1st. District, to be held with Ebenezer church, Walker county, four miles west of Glover's Ferry, commencing on Friday before the Second Sunday in August, 1884, N. Sanders to preach the introductory sermon, M. C. Cross, alternate. 2nd. District, to be held with Cluster Springs, Jefferson county, commencing on Friday before the First Sunday in August, 1884.

10. Called for report of Committee on Finance, report \$30.70 contributions and were discharged.

11. Appointed our next session to be held with Providence church, Blount county, commencing on Friday before the Third Sunday in September, 1884; N. Sanders to preach the introductory sermon, J. H. Reaves, alternate.

12. Appointed D. Jenkins, Treasurer and to superintend the printing of 400 copies of these minutes, and reserve 125 copies for corresponding purposes, and that we allow him \$5 for his services.

13. We cordially received Elder I. N. Moon, a visiting minister, with a package of minutes from the Marietta, (Ga.,) Association.

14. *Resolved*, That we have the Constitution, Rules of

Decorum and Abstract of Faith printed in this Minute.

15. *Resolved*, That we return thanks to God and the Church at Little Vine for their hospitality and kindness to us during our session.

After reading and correcting minutes adjourned till time and place stated in this minute.

H. BARTON, Moderator.

D. JENKINS, Clerk.

The stand was occupied on Sunday by Elders J. H. Reaves from Calhoun county, Ala., I. N. Moon, Geo. W. W. Barton and H. Barton, who preached the Gospel in demonstration and power of Elijah's God to a large and attentive congregation.

Received of D. Jenkins, Clerk, \$12.50 for printing four hundred copies of these minutes.

ROBERTS & SON.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Five Mile Creek Baptist Association of the Primitive Faith and Order in session with the church at Little Vine, Walker county, Ala., to her Sister Associations with whom she corresponds:

Beloved brethren in the Lord, we have been permitted to meet and transact the business of our Sixteenth Annual Session in harmony and love, for which we desire to be thankful to Almighty God, the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Dear Brethren, your correspondence has not been as full as we desire, though your messages of love have been a feast of joy to us, and we desire a continuance of the same. We have appointed our next session to convene with Providence church, Blount county, Ala., six miles northeast of Warrior Station, on the South and North Alabama Railroad, at which time we hope to meet your friendly correspondence again. We refer you to the body of our minutes for the names of our corresponding delegates.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. All the churches comprising this Association shall be of the Baptist persuasion.

Art. 2. All churches composed of members as above and constituted by a presbytery of members of the Baptist order on the abstract of the Principles of Faith adopted by this Association, shall be considered orthodox; and on application by letter and messengers (if found orderly) shall be received into this Association, which shall be signified by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 3. The Association thus formed shall be known by the name of the Five Mile Creek Baptist Association, of the Primitive Order, whose business shall be to maintain and perpetuate the union of the church and brethren, to open and extend correspondence with sister Associations and the denomination generally, to determine the doubtful questions, and to settle difficulties between churches: but shall have no power to infringe the internal rights of the churches nor interfere with the fellowship of individual members.

Art. 4. Each church shall be entitled to three representatives, who shall be chosen by the churches, and on their presenting a church letter certifying their appointment, they shall be entitled to seats and all the privileges of the Association.

Art. 5. Should any church of this body neglect or refuse to represent herself, as described in the above articles, she shall show cause for such neglect or refusal at the next session. Should she neglect or refuse to show cause, or should the cause not be satisfactory, and she refuses to give satisfaction, she may be excluded from the Association.

Art. 6. If any church or member of this body depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel, or shall hold or encourage heterodox principles, or become disorderly and shall remain incorrigible after due labor had, she shall be excommunicated from the Association and published in the minutes.

Art. 7. Where any difficulty or difficulties arise between two or more churches of this body, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved to labor for satisfaction. Should satisfaction not be attained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved to proceed according to the economy of the Church Discipline as contained in Mathew, chapter 18, and other parts of the Scriptures that define the nature of offenses and the mode of bringing offenders to trial; but if the aid of helps of other churches should fail to effect a reconciliation, then the case shall be brought before the Association which shall take it up and try it on its merits giving to all concerned a fair hearing; and the decision of the Association shall be final in the case and shall be entered on the minutes; and in no case of difficulty between churches of this body shall be taken up but such as have been treated as above described.

Art. 8. We will not hold in fellowship any church that holds any member in her that is a member of any of the following institutions, to-wit: Theological Schools, State Conventions, Missionary Societies, Tract Societies, Sunday School Unions, Temperance Societies, nor any other society that is tributary to the missionary plan as it now exists in the United States. Neither will we knowingly correspond with or receive correspondence from any Association that holds churches in fellowship holding members in them who are members of any of the above named institutions, together with any other society claiming to be auxilliary to the Church of Christ, members belonging to the Masonic Fraternity, Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance or Know Nothings, nor any other secret so-

ciety that does exist or hereafter may exist, founded on the wisdom of men.

Art. 9. The Association shall prepare a book of record, in which all her proceedings shall be recorded.

Art. 10. The Association shall have a fund to defray the expense of printing minutes, paying the Clerk for services, and other incidental expenses. The money thus expended shall be furnished by the churches of this body and deposited in the hands of a Treasurer, who shall hold the Association fund, from which he shall advance money to the Association order, but not otherwise, and shall make a fair report in the minutes of each Annual Session of the money received from each church, of the amount in hand and the sum total: also, the sum total with the several items paid out.

Art. 11. Every church shall be furnished with minutes and every other benefit of the fund in proportion to the money advanced by it.

Art. 12. Any amendment may be made to the Constitution whenever a majority of the churches may think necessary and signify it to the Association in their letters, pointing out the defective part and the amendment necessary to be made.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Art. 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

Art. 3. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall first rise and address the Moderator.

Art. 4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any one except the Moderator, nor by him unless he breaks the rules.

Art. 5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks upon his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the matter as nearly as he can so as to convey his idea.

Art. 6. No member shall break off or absent himself from the Association without leave.

Art. 7. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without leave of the Association.

Art. 8. Every motion made and seconded shall be put to a vote by rising or sitting unless withdrawn by the member who made it, and a majority in all cases shall decide.

Art. 9. No member shall have the liberty of whispering or laughing in time of public speech.

Art. 10. No appellation but that of brother shall be used in the Association.

Art. 11. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association requires.

Art. 12. The Moderator shall have the same liberty of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the Association be divided.

Art. 13. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association.

Art. 14. Any member who breaks any of the rules may be dealt with as the Association may think proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in one only true and living God, and there are three who bear record—the Father, and the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one.

Art. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only rule of faith and practice for the Church.

Art. 3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and that his posterity inherited his corrupt and fallen nature, and are incapable of recovering themselves from their fallen state.

Art. 4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to his people and the election of a definite number of the world to grace and glory before the world begun, and that there was a covenant of grace or redemption made between the Father and the Son before the world begun, in which their salvation is secure, and that they in particular are redeemed.

Art. 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ being imputed to them.

Art. 6. We believe that all those who were chosen in Christ will be effectually called, regenerated, converted, sanctified and supported by the spirit and power of God, that they will be preserved in grace, and not one of them finally lost.

Art. 7. We believe that good works are the fruit of faith and follow after justification, that they justify us in the sight of men, and are evidences of our gracious state.

Art. 8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the punishment of the wicked will be eternal, and the happiness of the righteous everlasting.

Art. 9. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Washing the Saints' Feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of these ordinances; and we believe that immersion is the only proper mode.

Art. 10. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of these ordinances, only such as are regularly called of God and come under the imposition of hands by the Presbytery.

NAMES OF MINISTERS.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. M. Barton,
N. Sanders,
J. W. McComak,
H. Barton,
D. Jenkins,

J. T. Stuart,
J. S. Kitchens,
J. H. Reaves.

LICENTIATES.

J. H. Blacmon.

